

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-11 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected.

Claims 1-8, 10, and 11 have been amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, at pages 2, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The Examiner alleged that the claim recitation "the manager" lacked antecedent basis. The claims have been corrected. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, at pages 3-6, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Fritz. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 6 recite "a plurality of documents having together a hierarchical structure comprising an upper layer and a lower layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML)", where "an XML file indicat[es] a relation between a document in the upper layer and a document in the lower layer". In contrast, Fritz discusses using HTML hyperlinks *in the documents* to link or relate the documents. According to claim 1, for example, the hierarchical structure of the documents together (e.g. multimedia documents seen in Figures 3 and 4) is described in XML using tags defined individually (see, e.g., Figure 5). This allows projection of the hierarchical objects from the upper hierarchy. In contrast, the tags in Fritz are fixed on the WWW, which does not facilitate operations such as the construction of a custom ontology or hierarchical structure.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4, for example, recites that "client sends via the network to said server retrieval information for a document that has been retrieved, and said server sends via the network to said client, when a document corresponding to the retrieval information is updated, updating information related to the document updated". The rejection of claim 4 refers to col. 7 of Fritz. This portion of Fritz discusses an Information Repository (IR) content agent 188 that, in typical fashion, locks a document when a user is making a new version of the document, thus preventing another user from accessing the document. This portion of Fritz discusses ordinary single document revision control and does not discuss that "updating information related to the document updated" is sent by a server to a client via a network (e.g., by e-mail).

Claims 5, 8, and 11 were also rejected with reference to col. 7 of Fritz. However, this portion of Fritz does not discuss a server permitting or inhibiting retrieval of the document, or mere retrieval of the document, according to the security level, as recited in claims 5, 8, 11.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 5, 8, and 11 is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed patentable due at least to their dependence from allowable independent claims. These claims are also patentable due to their recitation of independently distinguishing features. For example, claim 7 recites that the "management information", which comprises an XML file (claim 5), "includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and a version number of each of the plurality of documents". This feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 28 July 2003
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